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Certified Translation from German into English

Aloys Wobben
Argestrasse 19, D-26607 Aurich
Plug connector

The invention relates to a plug connector with features pursuant to the generic portion of claim 1.

- 5 A plug connector of this kind is known from DE 195 26 267 A1, for example.

In said known plug connector, a copper conductor and an optical waveguide are jointly fed through a common cable gland into a plug housing, and the different cables are connected to corresponding contact inserts. The copper conductor
10 comprised of two copper leads is thus connected to the standard earthed contacts as connectors, whereas the optical waveguide is connected to an optical waveguide connector. However, a particular disadvantage of this known solution is that it can only be used in setups in which the mating contacts are likewise configured in such a way that the respective conductors can also be connected to their matching
15 conductors.

A plug connector housing with two cable bushings is known from DE 198 03 677. However, this document discloses that a conductor end is fed through each of the two bushings into the plug housing, where they can be connected or looped through
20 in the desired manner. Such loopthrough then necessitates an electrical connection for the respective conductors of the two cables, however.

DE 43 37 905 shows a plug connection with a plurality of openings through which galvanic conductors and optical conductors can be fed. In the plug connection
25 disclosed therein, connections for galvanic conductors and connections for optical conductors are described.

The technical problem of the present invention is to develop a plug connector of the kind initially specified in order to extend the uses of the plug connector. This problem is solved with a plug connector having the features pursuant to claim 1. Advantageous embodiments are described in the subclaims.

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The invention according to claim 1 proposes that, in a plug connector of the kind initially specified, a second cable bushing is provided on a plug housing such that, even though the first cable bushing of the plug connector receives two different cables, the second cable bushing nevertheless receives only one of the two cables (or additional cables).

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The second cable bushing is preferably provided on a different side of the plug connector than the plug contact, so that the plug contact can be a standard plug contact (contact pin or other standardized contacts), for example, and that another conductor, for example, can be fed through the second cable bushing to a desired position.

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Plug connectors according to the invention can be used, in particular, wherever a current, e.g. a control current, is transferred by a copper cable, on the one hand, and where waveguides can be also be used to transfer data, on the other hand, for example for high-speed transfer of data signals for controlling and/or diagnosing a wind turbine.

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In a wind turbine, in particular, plug connectors of the kind specified by the invention can be deployed advantageously in power control cabinets.

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The invention shall now be described in greater detail with reference to an embodiment shown in Fig. 1. Figure 1 shows a plug connector 1 with a first cable bushing 2 having a cable gland 3 mounted on the plug housing 4 for fixating cables 9, 7. The plug connector according to the invention also has a contact insert 5 on one side of the plug housing, and a second second cable bushing 6 is provided on the opposite side of the plug housing from the first cable bushing.

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It can be seen from Fig. 2 that the cable in the first cable bushing includes a plurality of different conductors of which some are connected to the contact insert 5 of the plug connector, whereas others are only fed through the plug housing 9 and exit through a second cable bushing 6 on the other side of the housing opposite the first cable bushing. The cables that are fed through the second cable bushing are thus fixated to the plug housing, whereby another cable gland 8 can also be provided for the second cable bushing in order to fixate the second set of conductors at the housing.

10 In the example shown, the separate leads of the first set of conductors (cable tree) 10 are copper leads with which a normal current or control data (control signals) can be transferred. The separate leads of the second set of conductors 7 are optical waveguides, i.e. leads using a different physical principle than the first set of conductors.

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Fig. 3 shows a plan view onto a contact insert, which may be a commonly known contact insert connected to the plug housing.

In contrast to the aforementioned citation DE 198 03 677, the invention discloses the technical principle that two conductors are fed into the plug connector through a shared cable bushing and that one of the two conductors is fed back out of the plug connector through a second cable bushing. However, this is an independent solution and not a loopthrough. The crucial difference between the invention and the aforementioned citation is that, in prior art connectors, the second cable is not fed back out of the plug without interruption. In the invention, in contrast, the cable fed through the first bushing is fed back out again through the second bushing, without interruption, thus removing a potential source of faults.

20 The teaching of the invention has the advantage that cables containing conductors that operate according to different physical principles can be fed into the plug connector and that only galvanic conductors, for example, are connected to a suitably configured contact insert. Accordingly, said contact insert can be manufactured and provided simply and inexpensively, unlike contact inserts for

connecting different physical systems. For example, it is possible in this way to connect galvanic conductors in the plug connection and to simply feed the optical conductors back out through the second bushing, connect them in a separate plug connection designed for optical waveguides, and by this means connect them to a suitable mating piece.

The aforesaid variant of the plug connector thus functions to provide an excellent fixation means for the optical waveguide while combining the two different types of conductor leading to the plug connector, thus optimizing the stability of the conductor arrangement and feed paths and keeping them simple, particularly since both types of conductor leading to the plug are enclosed by the same jacket, as shown in Figs. 1 und 2.